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feeling that the question is a very difficult one to decide and, we may add, with a strong conviction that the writer of this book, at any rate, has not decided it. Still one can hardly blame Mr. Mechem for not having added anything to the science of this subject. The question, what is an office, is one which cannot be answered from pure theory, but requires for its determination a careful consideration of the judicial decisions. These, however, are very conflicting and show a marked tendency to include under the term officer almost every person, whatever be his station, who is permanently connected with the government.

The other questions which Mr. Mechem treats are those of eligibility and the method of filling offices; the authority, duties and liabilities of officers; the judicial control which is exercised over them; and the methods of terminating the official relation. Some of these matters are treated with a commendable fulness, especially those which are of particular interest to the practising lawyer. This characteristic is only natural, since the book is written for the profession rather than for the student. Some matters of immense importance are passed over with little more than a bare mention. Such for example is the case with the subject of impeachment. But still, even admitting that the work has been written mainly with the idea of lessening the labors of the profession, it will be of great value to the student; for the tedious work of collecting the cases on this most important subject of administration is now done.

F. J. G.

Wörterbuch des Deutschen Verwaltungsrechts. In Verbindung mit vielen Gelehrten und höheren Beamten, herausgegeben von Karl von Stengel. Vol. I. Freiburg, i. B., J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1890. — viii, 895 pp.

This dictionary (or cyclopædia, as we should call it) of German administrative law is one of the things which students of German administration have long felt the need of. While the French law has been treated most fully in the various dictionaries, such as Block's and Béquet's, the German law has, up to the appearance of this work, been treated only in the various commentaries, which, however excellent in their way, have never offered the student such a wealth of material as a dictionary of this kind will of necessity contain. The first volume begins with *Abgaben* and ends with *Kunstschulen*; thus containing all that will be said on the general subject of local government. The editor, Professor von Stengel, is already well known to students of German administration through his most excellent work on the organization of the Prussian administration and his more general work on German administrative law. As professor of law at the university of Breslau, most of his work

thus far has been in the domain of administration. He is therefore eminently well fitted for the task here undertaken. As the title of the work indicates he has availed himself of the aid and collaboration of the men most celebrated in Germany in the branches which the dictionary attempts to cover. Among the contributors we find such names as Gneist, Kirchenheim, Hinschius, Laband, Sarwey, Stengel, von Mayr, Reitzenstein, Munsterberg, Zorn, G. Meyer and others, who have made for themselves reputations both in the special lines to which their articles are devoted and in the general subject of administration. A particularly valuable feature of the dictionary, and one which will make its possession indispensable to others besides mere administrative lawyers, is the fact that, wherever this is possible, the subjects are treated from the economic and financial as well as from the purely administrative point of view. Take for example the space devoted to the *Gemeinde*. We find an article on *Gemeinde* in general, and others on *Gemeindeanlehen*, *Gemeinde-Bezirk*, *Gemeinde-Dienst*, *Gemeinde-Gebühren*, *Gemeindehaushalt*, *Gemeinde-Vermögen*, etc., down to *Gemeinde-Verwaltung*. The advantage of such an arrangement is that one who desires information upon some particular part of the administration or finances of the *Gemeinde* is not obliged to read through the whole long chapter. Another noteworthy characteristic of the dictionary is the full bibliography and list of *Quellen* attached to each of the articles. This single feature makes the work simply invaluable.

Among so many articles by so many distinguished men it is almost impossible to select any as pre-eminent without casting an undeserved shadow upon the others. Mention ought to be made, however, of those by Dr. von Mayr, of Munich, who has done a large part of the financial and statistical work, and especially of his titles *Abgaben* and *Erbschaft- und Einkommensteuer*.

The dictionary is to be completed in a second volume, whose appearance may be expected shortly.

F. J. G.